



News Release

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State to offer workshops on small water system rule changes

OLYMPIA — Very small water systems throughout the state, known as Group B water systems, will be affected by rule changes that are now in review.

The state Department of Health is hosting a series of workshops this month to explain the draft rule changes and will take public comments at the meetings.

Group B public water systems serve fewer than 15 connections and fewer than 25 people per day. There are 13,000 Group B water systems in Washington, providing service to about 110,000 people — about two percent of the state's population.

The Department of Health and local health agencies share responsibility for regulating these water systems. In 2009 the governor and the legislature eliminated state funding for this program and revised the law to provide regulatory flexibility.

The law authorizes the state Board of Health to establish requirements for the initial design and construction of new Group B water systems. This change allows the board to eliminate ongoing monitoring requirements once the system's design is approved. It also allows local health agencies to set their own requirements as long as they are at least as strict as the state's rules for Group B water systems.

Under the law, the board may drop regulatory requirements for Group B systems serving four or fewer connections. The current draft rule only eliminates requirements for most systems with one or two connections.

Public comments from the upcoming workshops will be used to develop a final draft rule. The rule changes are expected to be adopted next year.

The workshops will be at four locations around the state. All begin at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public:

- **Tuesday, September 14 – Ellensburg:** Hal Holmes Community Center, 209 N. Ruby St.
- **Wednesday, September 15 – Spokane:** WSU Spokane County Extension, 222 N. Havana St.
- **Wednesday, September 29 – Tumwater:** Department of Health, 310 Israel Road S.E., [Point Plaza East, conference room 152/153](#)
(www.doh.wa.gov/DOHDirections/PointPlaza.htm)
- **Thursday, September 30 – Mount Vernon:** PUD #1 of Skagit County, 1415 Freeway Drive, Aqua Room

The [draft rule, a summary of changes, and background materials are available online](#) (www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/groupb.htm) to help the public prepare for the workshops.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health website at http://www.doh.wa.gov for <i>a healthy dose of information</i> .
